

REMARKS:

The above Amendment and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the September 19, 2002 Office Action. Upon entry of the above amendment, Claims 1, 6, 7, and 10 will have been amended, Claims 5 and 15 will have been canceled, and Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 11-14, and 16-20 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-4, 9-14, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mayer III, et al. (U. S. Patent 6,115,022). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 5-8 and 15-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include limitations of Claim 5 consistent with the Examiner's statement in the second Paragraph under Item 6 (*Allowable Subject Matter*) on Page 3 of the Office Action. Claim 10 has also been amended to include limitations similar to that of amendment Claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn and the rejected claims allowed.

Response to the objection of the drawings:

The Examiner has objected to Figure 37 on the basis that "Figure 37 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art -- because only that which is old is illustrated. Filed concurrently with this Amendment is a Request To Approve Drawing Changes requesting approval of a proposed drawing change to Figure 37 in which the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added. A copy of the proposed amended Figure 37, showing the changes in red, is attached for the Examiner's convenience. Upon the Examiner's approval of the proposed drawing correction, this objection becomes moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 11-14, and 16-20 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect to earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4621.

Respectfully submitted,
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